

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 14, 2009

Douglas W. Elmendorf  
Director  
Congressional Budget Office  
Ford House Office Building, Fourth Floor  
Washington, DC 20515

Thomas A. Barthold  
Chief of Staff  
Joint Committee on Taxation  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Elmendorf and Dr. Barthold:


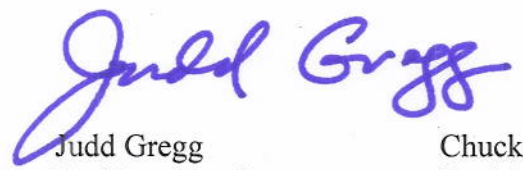

We are writing to request that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) provide a complete cost estimate of Senate Majority Leader Reid's perfecting amendment to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. We expect the complete cost estimate to contain the same level of detail as your November 18<sup>th</sup> estimate of the original Reid substitute, and we request that you include in the cost estimate a description comparing your estimate of the perfecting amendment with your estimate of Senator Reid's original substitute.

We also request that you provide additional information on the perfecting amendment. Specifically, we request the following: (1) the extent of the cuts to Medicare in the amendment and their impact on beneficiary access to providers of their choice, (2) the amendment's impact on premiums, (3) the amendment's impact on net federal spending on health care, (4) the amendment's gross and net impact on employer sponsored coverage, and (5) the amendment's impact on the growth of national health expenditures (i.e. bending the cost curve).

We believe CBO's complete analysis of the perfecting amendment needs to be made available to Senators well before a vote on the amendment occurs. Accordingly, CBO's analysis must be completed quickly to provide for sufficient time for review of the analysis so that Senators and the public are fully informed about the implications of the latest version of the plan on the federal budget and the health care system.

Since we expect that the amendment will be made available to the public on extremely short notice, it is vitally important that CBO provide a complete and thorough analysis as outlined above.

Sincerely,

		
Michael B. Enzi	Judd Gregg	Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member	Ranking Member	Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee	Senate Budget Committee	Senate Finance Committee